Claims:

1. A combustion suppressing cartridge for attachment to the outer surface of a fuel tank, said cartridge comprising:

   a) a casing, said casing defining an internal cavity; and

   b) a quantity of combustion suppressing material within said cavity;

   wherein said casing is sized and shaped so that a plurality of cartridges may be affixed, in a scattered arrangement, to the outer surface of the fuel tank.

2. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is sufficiently tough to withstand loads encountered during normal operating conditions, and sufficiently brittle so that said casing ruptures under severe loads.

3. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is of a generally transparent material.

4. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing comprises a material selected from the group consisting of mineral filled polypropylene, styrenic polymers, polyvinyl chloride, cellulose acetate, polyesters, and mineral filled formulated polyethylene.

5. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is formed of a multi-layered parison.

6. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is elongate.

7. The cartridge of claim 6 wherein said casing is generally rectangular in cross-section, having a cross-sectional thickness that is less than the cross-sectional width.

8. The cartridge of claim 6 wherein said casing is generally circular in cross-section.

9. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is generally disc-shaped.

10. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing comprises a generally flat joint surface to facilitate adhering the cartridge to the fuel tank.

11. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said combustion suppressing material comprises at least one of the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, ammonium phosphate, and halon.

12. A fuel tank to which a plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges may be attached, said fuel tank comprising:

a) an outer surface; and

b) a plurality of recesses provided in a scattered arrangement in said outer surface, each of said plurality of recesses sized and shaped to receive at least one of the plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges.

13. The fuel tank of claim 12 wherein each recess comprises at least one resilient lip adjacent the outer surface of said tank for engaging said at least one cartridge in snap-fit.

14. In combination, a fuel tank and a plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges, said fuel tank comprising an outer surface, and each of said plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges comprising:

a) a casing surrounding a cavity; and

b) a quantity of combustion suppressing material within said cavity;

c) said casing being sized and shaped so that said plurality of cartridges may be affixed, in a scattered arrangement, to said outer surface of the fuel tank.

15. The combination of claim 14 wherein said outer surface of said fuel tank is provided with a plurality of recesses, each recess being shaped to receive at least one of said plurality of cartridges.

16. The combination of claim 15 wherein each recess comprises at least one resilient lip adjacent the outer surface of said tank for engaging said casing of said cartridge in snap-fit.

17. The combination of claim 15, further comprising an adhesive between the casing of each of said cartridges and the outer surface of said fuel tank.

18. The combination of claim 17 wherein said adhesive comprises a length of double-sided tape.

19. The combination of claim 17, wherein each of said cartridges comprises a generally flat joint surface, and said adhesive is positioned between said joint surface and the outer surface of said fuel tank.